

The Hong Kong Daily Press.

No. 9128

日五月初三三十光

HONGKONG, TUESDAY, MARCH 29th, 1887.

二拜禮 號九十二月三英港香

[PRICE \$2 PER MONTH]

SIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

March 28, PARTRIDGE, British steamer, 204. J. W. Stavers, Pakhoi, Hoihow, and Macao 27th March, General—ADAMSON, BILL & CO., LTD. Ping-ching, Chinese cruiser, from a cruise.

March 28, CRESTED, British str., 684, Hughes, Whampoa 28th March, General—BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE.

March 28, GLENORCHY, British steamer, 1,255, F. Gedya, London 11th February, Penang and Singapore 21st March, General—JAPANESE, MATHERSON & CO.

March 28, DIAMOND, British steamer, 1,492, W. B. Bigley, Liverpool 5th February, and Singapore 20th March, General—BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE.

March 28, ORIENT, German bark, 400, W. Eder, Wampoa 28th March, General—MASTER.

March 28, PEI LIOU, Chinese Customs cruiser, Room Amoy 27th March.

March 28, PHEA CHUA CHOM KLAO, British steamer, 1,012, H. Lightwood, Bangkok 20th March, Rice and General—YUEN FAT HONG.

CLEARANCES.

AT THE HARBOUR MASTER'S OFFICE.

23rd MARCH.

Treasor, British steamer, for Saigon.

Thales, British steamer, for Swatow.

Chesia, British steamer, for Tientsin.

Eise, German steamer, for Whampoa.

Peekeng, British steamer, for Shanghai.

Pelos, German steamer, for Choochow.

Atholl, British steamer, for Amoy.

Iagraben, German steamer, for Swatow.

Sonchee, British steamer, for Hainan.

Orient, British bark, for Tientsin.

Sarah Hignell, American ship, for London.

DEPARTURES.

March 29, ANTON, German steamer, for Hoihow.

March 28, CARIBBEAN, British steamer, for Saigon.

March 28, ANNIE, German bark, for Hamburg.

March 28, INGRAM, German str., for Swatow.

March 28, HALLOON, British str., for Swatow.

March 28, FOOKSANG, British str., for Shanghai.

March 28, ATHOLL, British str., for Amoy.

March 28, EISE, German str., for Whampoa.

March 28, NAUTILUS, German bark, for Amoy.

March 28, VELVET, German str., for Choochow.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per Portadry, str., from Pakhoi, &c.—12 Chinese.

Per Glenorchy, str., from London, &c.—Mrs. Warren Smith and two children, Dr. and Mrs. Palmer, Dr. and Mrs. McFarlane, Mr. Perry, and 500 Chinese from Singapore.

For Diamond, str., from Liverpool, &c.—280 Chinese.

DEPARTED.

For Emeraldia, str., for Amoy.—23 Chinese.

For Manila—Mr. H. T. Dean, and 5 Chinese.

TO DEPART.

For Cormandor, str., from Hongkong.—For Verico—Rev. W. R. and Mrs. Thompson From Shanghai—For Singapore—Mr. and Mrs. Dougall and native servant, and Mr. A. Thurlow and native servant. For Penang.—Dr. D. Cowen, For Marselles—Messrs. E. G. Baker and J. E. Cocks, For London—Mrs. Hilt and the Misses Hilt (5), Commander D. L. Dickson, R.N., and Miss Vidor.

REPORTS.

The British steamer *Phoebe* from Liverpool 5th February and Singapore 20th March, reports had strong N.E. winds with a heavy sea.

The British steamer *Phoebe* from Hongkong, reports—Left the river Elbe on the 24th November. Fair weather through the north seas and 31 degrees west. On the 6th January she had a splendid run there in sailing through the eastward, and had very heavy gales. Passed the equator on the 16th of January, the 17th Jan., the longitude of the Cape of Good Hope on 19th Jan., and 30 degrees longitude on 40 degrees latitude on the 1st February. After this had for some days very rough and stormy weather and hard gales. Met the S.E. trade in the Indian Ocean, near the coast of Australia, blowing like a gale. On the 22nd Feb., made the coast of Malacca, 34 days after leaving. The next day passed through the Straits of Amak. From thence through the Flores Sea. On the 7th March passed the Equator in the Gilolo Passage, after this had much calm and variability. On the 14th saw the Helen Steal. After that had a good N.E. trade, made the island of Ballinaung on the 24th; after a quick run across the China sea came to an anchor in Loochoo. Passes the evening of the 26th, and arrived in Hongkong on the morning of the 27th, after a safe passage of 122 days from the river Elbe.

K WONG MAN SHING, Dealer in FURNITURE OF ALL KINDS JAPANESE LACQUERED WARES, CURIOS, &c., &c. PRICES MODERATE. 53, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, Victoria Hotel, Hongkong. Hongkong, 16th February 1887. [368]

A FONG, PHOTOGRAFHER has added to his COLLECTION OF VIEWS some NEW SCENES AND PHOTOS. NATIVE TYPES, copies of which are obtainable in his Studio at Messrs. KELLY & WALSH'S. VARIOUS MINIATURES OF SUPERIOR QUALITY and of EXCELLENT WORKMANSHIP. PERMANENT ENLARGEMENTS OF PHOTOS, and VIEWS and reproductions of the same on Paper, Canvas, or Opal.

INSTANTANEOUS VIEWS, GEOPHOTOGRAPHS and PHOTOGRAPHS are taken in any state of the weather, and all Permanent Processes are executed on Moderate Terms.

STUDIO—ICE HOUSE LANE. [62]

GRIFFITH'S PHOTOGRAPHIC VIEWS, of Hongkong, and Ports, are the Newest and Best published, have the greatest degree of permanency and are moderate in price.

SPECIAL EXCELLENCE in IVORY MINIATURES, Engravings and reproductions.

STUDIO, 1, DUDDELL STREET. [169]

INTIMATIONS.

LIFE ASSURANCE.

FOR many years the STANDARD LIFE OFFICE has paid away upwards of Half a Million Pounds Sterling per Annum in Death Claims. Its Funds—steadily increasing, exceed £1 Millions, and have increased over 50 per cent. in the last 15 years. The New Assurances on carefully selected lives for the last five years have been in excess of the Business transacted by any of the Scottish Life Offices. The Business is conducted with economy, the premiums are moderate, and the conditions will be found liberal.

Interest allowed on Deposits—Fixed for 12 months, 5 per Cent. per Annum. Fixed for 6 months, 4 per Cent. per Annum. Fixed for 3 months, 3 per Cent. per Annum. On Current Deposit Accounts 2 per Cent. per Annum of the daily balance.

Forms of Proposal on application to the BORNEO COMPANY, LIMITED,

Agents, Hongkong.

FILTERS!!

SILICATED CARBON FILTERS.

THE FILTRE RAPIDE.

TRAVELLING FILTERS.

S H I P S' S F I L T E R S.

LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.

Hongkong, 2nd March, 1887. [126]

KELLY & WALSH, LIMITED.

New Regulations for preventing Collisions at Sea, 50 cents.

Some of the Analects of Confucius, illustrated by Mr. T. Jones.

Fielding's *Tom Jones* bound in Scolar's Parchment Pickles

Fielding's *Adventures of Tom Jones*

Smelle's *Roderick Random*

Fielding's *Joseph Andrews*

Bradhaw's *A. E. C. Guide to the United States*

Map of the California Pacific Railway.

Haydn's *Dictionary of Dates*.

South's *Shipping Telegraph Code*.

The *Lady's World*—New Fashion and Society Monthly Magazine.

MacLean's *Horse Racing in France*.

MacLean's *Diseases of Tropical Climates*.

Jackson's *Text Book of the Steam Engine*.

Leeds' *Practical Mathematics and Optics*.

Life of Frank Buckland.

Lock's *Tobacco and Hand Book for Planters*.

De Monfort's *Electricity as a Motive Power*.

Sprague's *Electricity, its theory, Sources and Applications*.

Lockwood's *Hand Book of Electric Telegraphy*.

KELLY & WALSH, LTD., HONGKONG. 24.

W. BREWER HAS JUST RECEIVED

VAST QUANTITY OF POSTAGE STAMP ALBUMS.

Fresh consignment of "Renshaw" Tonkin Shoes.

Perry & Co.'s "Vivuct" Watches, splendid time keepers, \$5.00.

Almanac do Gotha.

Shooting, Badminton Library.

Common Sense on Parade, by Colonel the Right Hon. J. H. A. Macdonald, C.B.M.P.

Perry & Co.'s *Hand Book of Her Majesties Royal Household*.

Map of the Chinese Post Office.

Map

METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER.

	Previous day.	On date	On date
	at 1 p.m.	at 10 a.m.	at 4 p.m.
Barometer	29.98	30.04	29.92
Temperature	68	67	68
Humidity	68	67	68
Direction of wind	E.	E.	E.
Force of wind	3	2	3
Weather	clear	clear	clear
Rain	none	none	none

The level of the sea was reduced to 29.98 feet at 1 p.m., and 30.04 feet at 10 a.m., and 29.92 feet at 4 p.m.

2.—The barometer is in the shade in degrees Fahrenheit, with mercury being 102°.

3.—Direction of wind two points.

4.—Degree of humidity 68%.

5.—State of the Weather. The sky: O. Detached clouds. Drizzle rain. F. fog. G. shower. H. light rain. I. rain. J. heavy rain. K. rain. L. rain. M. snow. N. drizzle. O. thunder. P. visibility. W. dew point.

7.—Rain in inches, winds in miles per hour.

W. DOWREY.

Hongkong Observatory, 28th March, 1887.

NEWS FOR THE ENGLISH MAIL.

THE DISCUSSION ON THE OPIUM BILL.

The speech of the Acting Attorney-General in moving the second reading of the new Opium Bill at the meeting of the Legislative Council on Friday, though somewhat prolix, was a lucid explanation of the circumstances that led to the conclusion of the agreement arrived at by the Joint Commission, of the position of the Colony in connection with the Additional Article of the Chefoo Convention, and of the scope and objects of the proposed legislation. This speech should be carefully perused by every person engaged in trade in this Colony, in order that they may form their own opinion upon it, and learn for themselves how the matter stands. A Mr. ACKROYD clearly demonstrated, when the British Government signed the Additional Article to the Chefoo Convention in July, 1885, that they pledged themselves to carry into effect clause 7 of Section III. of the Convention, and the Joint Commission was therefore appointed, sat, and discussed various schemes, of which the Hongkong Commissioner has undoubtedly selected the one least open to objection. It was impossible to devise a plan that would meet with universal approval, and it was unlikely that any Opium Bill would be found invulnerable to attack. Opium merchants have pointed out that the clause imposing regular inspection of stocks by the Opium Farmer was objectionable as giving him inquisitorial powers, a natural and reasonable objection which it is satisfactory to learn from Mr. ACKROYD will receive due attention from the Government, who now propose to shift that duty on to the shoulders of the Harbour Master. The objections of the retail dealers to the Bill, however, will be difficult to meet, and we await with interest the proposals they have to make. But we hope that no proposal involving the collection of Chinese duties in the Colony—whether by Government or by Chinese agents—will either be made or entertained. For many years we have been protesting against the constant infringement by Chinese officials of the rights of a British Colony and a free port, an abuse which the Government have either been unable or unwilling to put down. Indeed the existence in this Colony of an agency of the Taipings has of late been almost an acknowledged institution. The place has always been overrun by his spies, one evil at least for which this new agreement will deliver us.

Any attempt thereto to relieve the Chinese Government of the duty of collecting even a portion of their revenue should be strenuously resisted. The honest retail dealers in opium deserve sympathy and merit whatever assistance can be given to them to continue their trade, but it must not be forgotten that it is the Additional Article which, by removing the collectorate of the duty from the Taipings, has abolished his competition with the Foreign Customs and destroyed the bulk of that trade. The rejection of the new Opium Bill would not restore that trade, nor would the sale of duty paid certificates in the Colony revive it.

We think it is to be regretted that the Government could not see their way to a longer adjournment to give the dissenting parties more time to consider the question, but it must be confessed that it would be awkward for a new Administrator to have to take up so important a question with possibly no previous knowledge of the subject. It seems to us a great pity that the Agreement and Bill were not introduced earlier in the session. It is, however, more advisable that the Council should have the assistance of the Chief Justice in considering the Bill in Committee, and an adjournment that would deprive them of this assistance is to be deprecated. The adjournment is regretfully short, but the parties concerned will be allowed to be represented by counsel, and thus be enabled to propose for the consideration of the Legislature any modifications, amendments, or suggestions which can be made, and the unofficial members of Council will be able to criticize the Bill in Committee. It is to be hoped that they will all take part in the discussion and let their views be freely known. On Friday they maintained a discreet reserve, with the exception of the Hon. P. Brixton, whom we were sorry to see execute such a startling volte face. For some twenty years the senior unofficial member has consistently and energetically denounced the blockade of the colony maintained by the Revenue cruisers, yet at the eleventh hour, when there is a fair prospect of this being practically removed by conditions better than we could have hoped to secure, he denounces the Bill as a measure that will "destroy the freedom of the port." If we believed for one moment that this would be the effect of the Bill we would heartily join Mr. EYTON in protesting against it, but unless we could show some reason for the belief. If, however, the hon. member has an alternative scheme to propose, free from objection than the proposed Bill, we hope he will not hesitate to bring it forward, and that his colleagues will lend him their most earnest support. The question is not only one fraught with the highest importance to the interests of the Colony, but it presses for immediate solution. Sir ROBERT HART is at the door asking for the fulfilment of the agreement signed in September last, and behind him the Chinese Government demanding the execution of the conditions of the Chefoo Convention. It is, however, because we most fully believe that the agreement will at least minimise the grievances we have had to complain of in the past, and that it will effectively conserve the freedom of the port in the future, at the same time maintaining British prestige and authority unimpaired, that we accept it with that satisfaction and relief which arises from finding the inevitable less disagreeable and irksome than was expected. Finally, there is consolation even for the dubious; should the Ordinance be found to be injurious either to the trade or revenue of the Colony, the Government will have the right to repeat it.

CRICKET.

HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB & SERVICES. The return match between the above eleven was commenced on Friday, the 25th March, in splendid weather on a very fast wicket. The Club commenced batting and put together total of 139. Robertson's 19 was well made, but the 41 contributed by Holmworth was made more by good fortune than skill. The Club's 1st wicket was lost in the 1st over, and the 2nd in the 12th. Sawyer's 15 was a most interesting though he was lost early in the 1st. Our Base Ball Champion Tomes rattled up 11. Graham bowled 5 wickets for 45 runs, Travers 8 for 51, and Bomb. Giles 2 for 33.

The Services commenced badly, Seaman's blimp being shot out of the ground by Wilson for 11. Graham, Travers, Lloyd, and Matthews were all disposed of for miserable scores, Brumwell, who won in first, was playing carefully and well up to gun fire.

On getting to work again the next day Draw and the rest of the Bramwell could get to stay with him, and thanks to these two, the Services reached the three figures, the Innings closing for 101. Bramwell's 32 was a most creditable display, and Draw's 16 was well put together.

Barff secured 5 wickets for 47; Wilson 4 for 39; and E. J. Coxon 1 for 4.

After the usual interval, the Club commenced their innings. Only the bowlers, each of whom scored a century of course was one Col. Bryan caught him for 15. Holmworth took up a similar score and Barff put 10 to his credit. As the analysis shows, the Services' bowling was very deadly. Travers sent down 8 maidens in succession. The fielding, too, was much better in this innings than in the first; in fact, the main appeal to the club with more spirit. Graham closed the match with a catch in the slips. The Innings closed for 17.

Travers secured 7 wickets at a cost of 17 runs, and Graham 3 for 57.

At this stage it looked as though the Services would make a game of it, having disposed of a good batting team so cheaply; but it was not to be. A rot set in at once and three wickets fell for 4 runs. Lloyd, Seaman, and Matthews were all out in the space of 10 balls, and the rest of the team could not quite make up for it. Col. Bryan caught him for 15. Holmworth took up a similar score and Barff put 10 to his credit. As the analysis shows, the Services' bowling was very deadly. Travers sent down 8 maidens in succession. The fielding, too, was much better in this innings than in the first; in fact, the main appeal to the club with more spirit. Graham closed the match with a catch in the slips. The Innings closed for 17.

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At the conclusion of the cricket match on Saturday afternoon, the 25th March, Mr. S. C. COXON, on behalf of the members of the Hongkong Cricket Club, presented to Mr. H. FOSS, late Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, with a handsome gold watch, a small token of appreciation of the services rendered by him in his long connection with the Club.

Mr. COXON, in making the presentation, said: "We are met here, gentlemen, to wish good-bye, a pleasant trip, and the best of fortune at home to a gentleman who has been long connected with cricket circles in Hongkong. I refer to our esteemed friend Mr. FOSS. Mr. FOSS's connection with the Hongkong Cricket Club extends over a period of 15 years, and during that time he has, once again, shown himself a true cricket enthusiast."

Mr. FOSS—Thank you for your kind words.

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MAIL SUPPLEMENT TO THE HONGKONG DAILY PRESS.

HONGKONG, TUESDAY, MARCH 29TH, 1887.

THE OPIUM BILL.

We understand that a petition from the merchants engaged in the opium trade will be presented to the Legislative Council this afternoon praying that the second reading of the proposed Opium Bill, which is fixed for to-day, may be postponed to enable the persons more immediately concerned to become better acquainted with it, and that the petitions may be heard by counsel to their objections to its provisions. The Chinese retail dealers also, we believe, desire to have their views represented to the Legislative Council through counsel. The opium importers have likewise addressed a letter to the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce on the subject, setting forth their objections to the measure. They represent that the Bill as it stands will destroy the retail opium trade in the Colony and vest too great powers in the Opium Farmer. While willing to co-operate with the Executive in attaining the object of the Bill, namely, the prevention of smuggling into China, they at the same time urge that the Bill goes farther than is necessary to effect this object. The request that the second reading of the Bill may be postponed and that those interested in the trade may be represented by counsel is a reasonable one and will be granted as a matter of course.

The second reading will be moved, we presume, and the policy of the Government expounded, and then on the petition being presented, the postponement of the motion will be assented to. The bearing of the proposed legislation on the retail trade in the drug is a subject which cannot have escaped the attention either of the Government or of the Hongkong representative on the Joint Commission, and it was no doubt after mature consideration that the proposal to prohibit the possession of opium in quantities of less than one chest was decided upon. The clause providing for this stands first in the agreement come to by the Joint Commission, and the object of the Ordinance is to give effect to that agreement. It is to this provision that the objectors to the Bill are chiefly opposed, their ground of objection being that it will destroy the retail trade in the drug. The statement of the views of the Government on this point will be awaited with great interest. If the prohibition of possession of opium in quantities of less than one chest be insisted upon as a *sine qua non* the Legislative Council will be brought face to face with the very important alternative of either assenting to that prohibition or of throwing over the agreement altogether and accepting the inevitable consequence, which would be the settlement of the question by an Order of Her Majesty in Council, in the making of which the views of the local traders would probably receive short consideration. The matter is unfortunately not one in which the colony has a free choice. Something must be done, and whatever that may be it is almost sure to adversely affect some interests. If the opium merchants can show that dealings in quantities of less than one chest can be carried on under such conditions as will not afford facilities for smuggling the local Government will no doubt endeavour to obtain a modification of the agreement in this respect. If the merchants cannot show this there is little prospect of their attaining their end. The objection to the traffic in small quantities of opium, from the Chinese Customs point of view, is easy to understand. When once a chest is broken it must necessarily be difficult to prevent smuggling in such a portable article. The Customs therefore wish to collect their duty on whole chests. We are not in a position to suggest a middle course which will satisfy both parties, and must therefore reserve further comment on this branch of the subject until the suggestions of the dealers have been brought forward.

The other objection to the Bill, namely, to the powers of search and surveillance given to the Opium Farmer, is a mere matter of detail which we have no doubt will be satisfactorily adjusted. It is absolutely necessary the farm could be done away with altogether and the business be carried on by a Government department, as was the case for a few months some years ago. In any case provision may be made that searches and inspections shall be conducted only by regularly appointed Government officers who shall be directly responsible to the Government and not to the Opium Farmer. This arrangement would also palpably be more satisfactory to Sir Roderick Hart, as there would be less likelihood of a Government official being in collusion with smugglers. The character of the inspections must, however, largely depend on the question of whether the possession of opium in quantities of less than one chest is to be allowed or not. If possession of small quantities is not to be allowed the search will be a simple matter, and the returns of the import and export of the drug, and the quantities in stock could be kept by the Government almost without any reference to the Opium Farmer. But if the possession of broken chests is to be allowed quite a little army of informers will be necessary to detect surreptitious dealings in small quantities.

Assuming that the possession of opium in quantities of less than one chest is prohibited, the inconvenience attending the powers of search will be much less than in the contrary case, and we imagine it will be found that the interference with the retail trade will be nothing like so great as is at present supposed by the dealers. The trade will soon adapt itself to new conditions. What course it will take it may perhaps be premature to predict, but we may be permitted to hazard the suggestion that when it is desired to export quantities of less than one chest by junk arrangements could be made to break the chest at one of the Customs stations, which could be treated as a sort of miniature bonded warehouse, so to speak. In any case no apprehension need be entertained of the trade being diverted from Hongkong. Macao is included in the agreement, and cannot therefore enter into the field as a competitor except on equal terms, as at present. In the French colony of Cochin-China and the protected state of Tonquin there are opium farms and fiscal arrangements which would meet the views of the dealers no better than the proposed arrangement for Hongkong, besides which the French Government would probably be found willing to co-operate with China in preventing contraband trade, in order to avoid the growth of difficulties in a smuggling nature, or if further negotiations were required, in order to secure concessions, which China is in a position to make, in reference to the Tongqui and Yunnan trade. Manila has also been mentioned, but surely only by way of a joke. Any one who knows anything of the Spanish Custom authorities will not think a Spanish colony a favourable place to which to transfer a trade which can be conducted from any other port. It cannot be driven to the Treaty ports, as we have heard suggested, for there the opium is placed in bond, from which it is only released on payment of the £10.

duty and lekin. All fear as to the opium trade being driven from the colony is therefore, it will be seen, chimerical. Illicit trade will be stopped, no doubt, but who will venture to plead for the smugglers? Are they wanted here?—25th March.

PROJECTED RAILWAY EXTENSION TO TIENSIN.

Several reports have lately been made to the effect that a further development of railway enterprise in China would almost immediately take place, but so many unfounded rumours had previously been circulated that we hesitated to give them credence. A correspondent of the *Shen-pao*, a generally well-informed journal, has now definitely announced that it has been resolved to continue the Kaiting Extension Railway from Taku to Taku, and subsequently thence to Tiensin. Is this to be a real commencement of a railway to be made in the establishment of a railway system in China. The Kaiting-Taku line is practically only a mineral railway, to conduct the products of the Kaiting mines to a port of shipment, but the connection with Taku will be a most useful extension, it will enable the managers of the mines to bring the coal right into Taku, from whence it can be shipped at once for Shanghai, Hongkong, Canton, and other ports. The route of the proposed line presents no engineering difficulties, and the line might be constructed as inexpensively as the Taku section. The rapidity and ease with which that undertaking has been carried out no doubt have tended to encourage the Viceroy of Chihli to advocate its immediate extension. Nor would a line from Taku to Tiensin prove very costly. The numerous creeks would necessitate a good many bridges, but these need not be expensive, and the country is a dead level. The value of a railway to Tiensin would be enormous. It would practically place that river-bound city in communication with the rest of the world nearly all the year round, as the gulf is seldom frozen up entirely, and vessels could touch Taku, and then discharge their cargoes for Tiensin. Whether therefore the proposed line be made by the Chinese themselves, as the *Shen-pao*'s correspondent states, or by foreigners, we sincerely hope that his news may be verified and the good work speedily commenced.

THE CHINA AND MANILA STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

The fourth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders in the China and Manila Steamship Company, Limited, was held at the office of the general manager on the 21st March. There were present Mr. E. H. Huntington (Chairman), J. S. Moses (Consulting Committee), G. A. T. Jones, E. George, F. Henderson, F. Grimes, J. H. Cox, and R. Shaw (Secretary).

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, with your permission I propose to take the report and account of your agents for the year ended on the 31st of December and the balance on the books of the directors has made the balance on the credit side of profit and loss larger than it has ever been before, but against this must be borne in mind the fact that we have got rid of the most unprofitable factor in the Company's affairs, and put a stop to what has been a steady drain on its resources. It must also be remembered that the amount of our debt has been reduced from £21,100,51 to £20,994,20, and we have paid off the sum of £12,115.82.

In the opinion of the General Managers the three remaining steamers are not too much for the requirements of the line. They are doing very well at present, but the *Emeralda* is not so well adapted to the trade on account of her size as the *Diamond* and *Zofro*, and should she be found to be less ground this year she will be taken in, and I hope to be able to get her back again.

With reference to the item of £14,330.00 freight outstanding at Hongkong, this amount has since been collected. In the absence of accounts from Manila it is impossible to say what amount was outstanding in raw opium, but we have a large sum engaged in the said port, and it is to be hoped that the same will be paid off in due course.

Your petitioners believe that the ends intended to be accomplished by the said Bill could be attained by other means, and that the said Bill, if passed in its present form, would prejudicially affect their trade, and that your petitioners would be compelled to take steps to oppose it.

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the Council a few minutes longer while I make one or two observations on the merits of this Bill. There have been only two really serious objections to it brought forward. The first is one that was made up at least five years ago in this Council at a private meeting—I think there has been called the imperialist party given the name of Opium Farmers. This party is a most difficult one, and refers to that effect the Bill will have on the retail trade in opium which goes on in this Colony. Now, sir, to take the second one first. In considering a question of this kind I think we ought to see how far we have really gone, and practically any choice in the matter. If the home Government, it appears to me, is fully determined to bring in an end to the opium traffic, then it is the right thing to do. But still I will give credit to the Chinese who have been managing it for some years past by saying that complaints have been very few. Perhaps many complaints have been withheld, but it is the fact that the Chinese have given very few grounds for complaint, and I believe to the Committee referred to in the Chamber of Commerce the other day, had I known it then, I would have said to him what was afterwards explained to be by the gentleman who wrote the letter it would never have appeared in the Chamber's report. With reference to the Opium Farmers' claim the following is my hon. friend opposite (the Colonial Treasurer) said he would have given the Colonial Treasurer a copy of the Ordinance, if I had not much, but still some inconvenience on the retail dealer in opinion, and accepting what has been referred to the bulk plan, that is not for the Chinese, nothing can be done. We shall, I believe, be obliged to the British and Chinese Governments. It is quite possible we may go further and fare worse. It is practically a choice between inflicting some inconvenience, I hope not much, but still some inconvenience on the retail dealer in opinion, and accepting what has been referred to the bulk plan, that is not for the Chinese, nothing can be done. The CHIEF JUSTICE.—We shall, I believe, be obliged to the British and Chinese Governments. It is quite possible we may go further and fare worse. It is practically a choice between inflicting some inconvenience, I hope not much, but still some inconvenience on the retail dealer in opinion, and accepting what has been referred to the bulk plan, that is not for the Chinese, nothing can be done.

Another poor excuse. We cannot afford to run the risk of forcing a Bill through. The only one that would affect the commerce of the port, and that is one that was made up at least five years ago in this Council at a private meeting—I think there has been called the imperialist party given the name of Opium Farmers. This party is a most difficult one, and refers to that effect the Bill will have on the retail trade in opium which goes on in this Colony. Now, sir, to take the second one first. In considering a question of this kind I think we ought to see how far we have really gone, and practically any choice in the matter. If the home Government, it appears to me, is fully determined to bring in an end to the opium traffic, then it is the right thing to do. But still I will give credit to the Chinese who have been managing it for some years past by saying that complaints have been very few. Perhaps many complaints have been withheld, but it is the fact that the Chinese have given very few grounds for complaint, and I believe to the Committee referred to in the Chamber of Commerce the other day, had I known it then, I would have said to him what was afterwards explained to be by the gentleman who wrote the letter it would never have appeared in the Chamber's report. With reference to the Opium Farmers' claim the following is my hon. friend opposite (the Colonial Treasurer) said he would have given the Colonial Treasurer a copy of the Ordinance, if I had not much, but still some inconvenience on the retail dealer in opinion, and accepting what has been referred to the bulk plan, that is not for the Chinese, nothing can be done. We shall, I believe, be obliged to the British and Chinese Governments. It is quite possible we may go further and fare worse. It is practically a choice between inflicting some inconvenience, I hope not much, but still some inconvenience on the retail dealer in opinion, and accepting what has been referred to the bulk plan, that is not for the Chinese, nothing can be done. The CHIEF JUSTICE.—We shall, I believe, be obliged to the British and Chinese Governments. It is quite possible we may go further and fare worse. It is practically a choice between inflicting some inconvenience, I hope not much, but still some inconvenience on the retail dealer in opinion, and accepting what has been referred to the bulk plan, that is not for the Chinese, nothing can be done.

W. H. MARSH.

RETURN OF UNSTAMPED CO. R. S. & C. CORRESPONDENCE.

The following correspondence was presented to the Legislative Council on the 25th March—

POSTMASTER GENERAL TO ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY.

General Post Office.

Hongkong, 23rd February, 1887.

Sir.—I have the honour to enclose a copy of a Postal Notice which I propose to issue in case it should be approved by His Excellency the Officer Administering the Government. I may say that the measures indicated in that Notice are simply the carrying out of Orders No. 6 of 1884 Section 10(1), which therefore legalizes the carriage of all such articles at a rate of 10c per oz. more or less of the nature of a new departure.

I find at a meeting in the right direction. But still I will do credit to the Chinese who have been managing it for some years past by saying that complaints have been very few. Perhaps many complaints have been withheld, but it is the fact that the Chinese have given very few grounds for complaint, and I believe to the Committee referred to in the Chamber of Commerce the other day, had I known it then, I would have said to him what was afterwards explained to be by the gentleman who wrote the letter it would never have appeared in the Chamber's report.

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The CHIEF JUSTICE.—No; he may if he likes.

Hon. P. RYRNE.—But he is bound by a penalty. If the Opium Farmer shall neglect or refuse to stamp any document which would include Macao, because it was useless for us to do anything here unless we could get a royal warrant, then I am afraid he will be liable to a penalty for such an offence not exceeding one hundred dollars.

The COLONIAL TREASURER.—No; he may if he likes.

Hon. P. RYRNE.—Then it ought to be made.

Hon. P. RYRNE.—However, I think the matter ought to be left to the discretion of the postmaster general to decide whether to make a charge or not. He will be liable to a penalty for such an offence not exceeding one hundred dollars.

The CHIEF JUSTICE.—That is the opinion of this Committee.

The CHIEF JUSTICE.—I should like to know what three weeks are required for, because I am sure the Council would object as much as possible if it were really required, but time is very pressing.

Hon. P. RYRNE.—I will give one reason. To call a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce.

The CHIEF JUSTICE.—There is no intention to open to criticism in case opinion is given on board in possession of a passenger or fireman.

If we adopt the bulk plan the freedom of the port goes, we shall have to frame repressive laws; our prison will be a safe of offenders, not against one or two laws but those of China, because if we are to work this plan we must work it to the last, fair and square, and our own interests to China, that is the position.

The CHIEF JUSTICE.—There is the opposition of the Chinese.

The CHIEF JUSTICE.—There is no intention to bring it into force at once. In fact I suppose it could not be brought into force at once because it would not suit the intentions of the Chinese.

The CHIEF JUSTICE.—Nothing has been done to induce me to grant further delay. I therefore move the second reading by adjournment to Tuesday next.

The COLONIAL TREASURER.—I beg to second that.

Hon. P. RYRNE.—On that day a special meeting of the Chamber of Commerce is being held to consider the same.

The CHIEF JUSTICE.—Arrowsmith-General? Could not the Act be carried over to another date?

Hon. P. RYRNE.—No, the mail only goes af-

ter four.

What information have we as to Macao?

His EXCELLENCE.—I have a despatch from Sir John Walsham informing me that Portugal has undertaken that there shall be a similar measure to that which we are proposing.

The CHIEF JUSTICE.—That seems to me to go to the root of the matter.

The CHIEF JUSTICE.—The man never has given trouble in Singapore, and I do not suppose there is any probability he will give trouble here.

As to our opinion, we trust the Council will not neglect this opportunity of improving the law.

Hon. P. RYRNE.—My hon. friend opposite (Hon. P. Ryrie) has urged we work hard to improve the law, and under the circumstances I have done so.

His EXCELLENCE.—I might be able to get through its business on Tuesday.

Hon. P. RYRNE.—And the meeting on Tuesday was only a committee meeting.

A division was taken on the question that the consideration of the second reading of the revenue affords a good opportunity for us to improve the law, and to make it more sensible. Several officers said that this bill was to be voted on.

The CHIEF JUSTICE.—There are strong recommendations from Sir Cecil Smith and I have always found them to be diligent and attentive people; they mean what they say, and they have never given any trouble whatever or made extravagant demands. Their manager came to me yesterday and asked me a very pertinent question. "Why?" he asked. "Do they gain the same as we do?" Hon. P. RYRNE.—No, the mail only goes af-

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